

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 /014 W  
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P 120120Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2953

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX, US

SUBJECT: MEXICALI SEWAGE--CALL ON ROVIROSA WADE

REF: STATE 025041

1. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF A CALL ON SECRETARY OF WATER RESOURCES ROVIROSA WADE TO RAISE WITH HIM THE CONTINUING PROBLEM OF MEXICALI SEWAGE. FINDING HIM GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH THE PROBLEM, I WENT INTO SOME DETAIL AS TO ITS HISTORY AND OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN REMEDIAL ACTION, DRAWING UPON STATE REFTEL AND OUR OWN FILES.

2. ROVIROSA SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE MEASURES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM BEFORE THIS ADMINISTRATION LEFT OFFICE, RECOGNIZING THAT THERE WAS AN ECHEVERRIA COMMITMENT ON THE MATTER, HE THEN CALLED IN HIS SPEICALIST ON THIS SUBJECT, ING. SERGIO MARTINEZ TABOADA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POTABLE WATER AND DRAINS. ING. MARTINEZ DREW FOR US A DETAILED MAP OF THE SEWER NETWORK IN MEXICALI. HE FIRST NOTED THAT THE RUPTURE OF ONE LINE, AS IT CROSSED THE NEW RIVER, HAD RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF SEWAGE EMPTYING INTO THE RIVER AND CROSSING THE BORDER. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE RUPTURE HAD BEEN CORRECTED AND THAT PARTICULAR SOURCE OF POLLUTION ELIMINATED.

3. MARTINEZ THEN DESCRIBED THE CHARACTER AND PURPOSE OF THE SOUTH COLLECTOR, IN WHICH GOM WAS INVESTING

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TWENTY MILLION PESOS. HE SAID THAT THIS COLLECTOR,

ONCE IN OPERATION, WAS EXPECTED TO HANDLE THE SEWAGE RUNOFF FROM ALMOST ALL AREAS NEAR THE NEW RIVER. IN ADDITION, HE SAID THAT THE CITY WAS REMOVING SQUATTER HOUSING FROM VICINITY OF NEW RIVER AND DEVELOPING RIVERSIDE AREA AS PARKS, PLAY GROUNDS, ETC. TO PREVENT FURTHER SQUATTING.

4. MARTINEZ ALSO DESCRIBED A LONGER RUN PROJECT TO DIRECT THE CITY'S FUTURE GROWTH EASTWARD AND AWAY FROM NEW RIVER, PARTICULARLY AS A MEANS OF REDUCING PRESSURE ON THE RIVER'S DRAINAGE CAPACITY. HE SAID THAT \$110,000,000 IN CREDITS HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE WORLD BANK TO ASSIST IN THIS MAJOR PROJECT.

5. MARTINEZ SAID THAT HE WAS IN TOUCH WITH ING. CABRERA AT FONSEC AND HAD COORDINATED WITH HIM RESPONSE TO OUR LONG-STANDING NOTE NO. 1327, WHICH HE SAID MIGHT ALREADY BE ON ITS WAY TO THE EMBASSY. I TOLD HIM THAT THERE HAD BEEN A QUESTION IN OUR MIND WHETHER THE SOUTH COLLECTOR AND OTHER WORKS WERE SUFFICIENT AND ASKED WHETHER, IN VIEW OF THE GROWING POLITICAL PRESSURES IN CALIFORNIA, MARTINEZ MIGHT NOT TAKE THE TROUBLE TO PROVIDE FOR US, IN WRITING, THE VALUABLE DETAIL HE HAD JUST GIVEN TO US VERBALLY. PARTICULARLY SINCE AS A LAYMAN, I WAS FAR FROM AN EXPERT ON UNTREATED SEWAGE PROBLEM. HE PROMISED TO DO SO, AND I GAVE HIM A COPY OF THE EMBASSY'S NOTE.

6. ROVIROSA HIMSELF THEN SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST WAY TO GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT MIGHT BE FOR HIM TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH AMBASSADOR FRIEDKIN ON THE SCENE. HE SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO TRAVEL TO MEXICALI NEXT SATURDAY, FEB. 14, ON OTHER BUSINESS, AND WOULD BE MORE THAN PLEASED TO MEET FRIEDKIN AT THAT TIME. TOGETHER, THE TWO OF THEM MIGHT INSPECT THE PRESENT SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES AS WELL AS THOSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION. IN ADDITION, HE SAID HE AND FRIEDKIN COULD TAKE THE OCCASION TO OVERFLY THE COLORADO RIVER-TIJUANA AQUEDUCT PROJECT BY HELICOPTER.

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7. I REPLIED THAT I WAS SURE FRIEDKIN WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET ROVIROSA IN MEXICALI, AND I OFFERED TO ASSIST IN SETTING UP THE MEETING.

8. NOTE: THE EMBASSY HAS SINCE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MR. MILLS AT THE IBWC OFFICE IN EL PASO AND PASSED ON TO HIM THE PRECEDING INFORMATION. AFTER CONTACTING AMBASSADOR FRIEDKIN(CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON), MILLS ADVISED US

THAT FRIEDKIN ACCEPTED THE INVITATION AND HOPED TO  
MEET WITH ROVIROSA IN MEXICALI ON SATURDAY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SEWAGE SYSTEM, WATER POLLUTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchant0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MEXICO01841  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760052-0962  
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**Line Count:** 118  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 25041  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by buchant0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEXICALI SEWAGE--CALL ON ROVIROSA WADE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MX, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006